

The Voice

Algona High School

Edited by: Jessica Mueller and Tashia Lemus

March 22, 2012

Honors Banquet and NHS Induction

Janet Hofmann

On Monday, March 14, chosen Algona High School students attended the Honors Banquet and National Honor Society Induction Ceremony. To be asked to attend the Honors Banquet, students must fulfill certain academic requirements. Freshmen must have a grade point average of 3.67 or better. Sophomores must be in the top 5% of their class, juniors must be in the top 10%, and seniors are asked to attend if they are in the top 15% of their class. 52 students were asked to attend.

National Honor So-

ciety is one of the country's leading education groups. To be considered for admittance to NHS, students must display the characteristics of great scholarship, service, leadership, and character. In addition to showing the Society's four pillars in a candidate's daily life, they must have performed at least 35 hours of community service to be considered for the Algona chapter of NHS.

To apply to Algona National Honor Society, students had to apply by contacting either Mrs. Spear or Mrs. Cassens. They must fulfill the requirements for

induction, then must provide a biography of themselves which displays their character, scholarship, leadership, and service to their school and community, and have two letters of recommendation. Students are then selected by a 5-person committee of school staff. Chosen students are contacted through a letter and invited to the induction ceremony where they become a member of this prestigious group.

Current members of National Honor Society are Haley Dittrich, Danielle Eden, Janet Hofmann, Sam

Lipps, PJ McMahon, Briana Meyerink, Christian Parker, Derek Person, Emily Prilipp, Jade Simpson, Abigail Stecker, Shelby Wagner, and Jeni Zeller. New members inducted on March 14 were Bergen Brown, Clay Collison, Morgan Goche, Leah Hamilton, Rachel Hamilton, Kyle Klepper, Amber Lenz, Chyan Metzger, Gavin Meyer, Jenna Reding, Rachel Teague, and Paige Yi.



Above: Current & new Algona NHS members.

Let's get competitive

Katie Riley

On Thursday, March 15, 2012, students in every grade at Algona High School had the opportunity to participate in Superstars. Superstars is a night of fun with several competitions between the grades. Superstars brought out the competitive side of many students. Students signed up for events the week before Superstars. While some required a sign up, there were also drop in events. There were a lot of students who participated and got involved; 70 freshmen students, 57 sophomores, 60 juniors, and 58 seniors were present for the class count at 3:45. Other students came later and joined in.

Dodgeball started out the night and was very competitive. On the girls' side, it was assumed the freshmen won because they got out the remaining junior girls only to be overturned because the fresh-

men stepped over the line. The boys' side was just as thrilling. It was down to two sophomore boys against one senior, Jeremy Black. The sophomores hit Jeremy, so they assumed they won and started to celebrate. However, Jeremy ended up catching the ball to get that player out and tagged the other one in the celebration.

There were open games, which anyone could participate in during their free time during the night. Some of the open events were checkers, chess, top-ple, barrel of monkeys, *Just Dance*, Grand Prize Game, 21, and *Guitar Hero*.

New this year was a coloring contest. Winner of the elephant was Paige Yi, a junior. The snake winner was Brennen Cink, a sophomore. The monkey and tiger were won by Jessica Olson, a senior. The parrot was won by Ben Hutchison, a sophomore. Lastly, the win-

ner of the giraffe was Selena Ramirez, a sophomore.

Some winning results on the night include - SENIORS: female arm wrestling under 130 pounds, male arm wrestling over 150 pounds, team ski walk, putting, human ladder, shuttle relay, chipping, tire bridge, boffo relay, limbo, musical chairs, and female and mixed tug of war. JUNIORS: steal the bacon, tire bridge, male arm wrestling under 150 pounds, elephant ring, and lightening. SOPHOMORES: Texas Hold 'Em, female arm wrestling over 130 pounds, swamp machine, and male tug of war. FRESHMEN: Jungle Bowl (Quiz Bowl), 3 on 3, and the bag game.

At 6:00 everyone gathered around for the talent show. The winner this year was a male group of seniors performing a "We Will Rock You/Star Spangled Banner" mix. Performers included Jacob Lampan, Aus-

tin Warmbier, Scott Haas, and Christopher Post. Second place went to a duet by Emily Banwart (senior) and Hunter Buscherfeld (junior). Third place was a dance solo by junior Chyan Metzger. A freshmen duet of Maddie Roach and Emma Schmidt placed fourth.

After all the games were finished, everyone gathered in the gym to find out the results of the night. Seniors received first place with 406.5 points. Juniors received second place with 311.5 points. Sophomores placed third with 279 points. Freshmen rounded out the bottom with 243 points. Jacob Kofoot said, "This year was so much fun! My competitive side came out a lot I think but I also had fun! My favorite event was dodgeball and steal the bacon because of the adrenaline." This was a great year and hope everyone gets involved in the future years!



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Turkey season

AJ Wagner

Turkey hunting is right around the corner. On April 7-15 is the youth season, April 16-19 is first season, April 20-24 is second season, April 25-May 1 is third season, and May 2-20 is fourth season. You can't hunt before or after these dates.

You are allowed two tags, either first and third or fourth season, or second or fourth season. So you can only shoot two birds.

To get yourself prepared, take the shotgun out and pattern your shots at different distances. Get out your calls and play around

with them. Get permission for a spot you think will be good. Go out in the mornings and see if you can hear them gobbling in your "Hot Spot." Go out in the afternoon and scout, get to know their patterns; the faster you catch on, the faster you'll get one.

After you have shot one, you need to call it in to the DNR or go to the DNR web page and fill out a form. The population around the area has been increasing. Brandon Lee says, "I can't wait to hear them gobbling and see them strutting!"

Barrel racing

Kuleen Parsons

Barrel racing was a sport started by women who used "Texas oil drums," 55 gallon barrels, and their husband's roping horses. These women wanted a fair event for them to compete against each other. They came up with using the three barrels in a clover leaf pattern and see which lady could get their horse through the pattern with the fastest time.

Barrel racing today has turned into a world wide sport and it is so much more complex than when it started. You and your horse have to work as a team to get through the pattern the fastest. Your horse has to get both leads, whoa (stops), back up, and be able to do the pattern at a walk, trot, and lope. Your horse has to be physically ready to run the pattern.

There are many brands of boots and bell boots for you to have to protect your horse's legs. Barrel horses run hard to the barrel and have to turn on a dime and that puts stress on their legs, so there is plenty of boots out there to help support your horse's legs.

Training your horse and yourself for barrel racing takes time and effort from both sides. You must have a good foundation on barrels before going out and pushing your horse to the limit; barrel racing is not just about speed but the horse has to be able to disengage his hindquarters to be able to turn around the barrel tightly and quickly. The horse has to be soft and supple, barrel

horses are some of the most athletic horses.

Working on the pattern for the first time can be very challenging! Try walking straight between the first two barrels and when you are between them, turn to your first barrel, keep in mind you can go right or left. When you first set your horse up for the barrel, you want to keep his nose bent in and stop your horse and say whoa where you think your horse should turn. Saying whoa and backing up will teach your horse to sit down and disengage his hindquarters to get around the barrel quicker. Another quick tip is that you should make sure your horse bends his nose around so he will get away from the barrel faster. Make sure you, as the rider, are sitting square in the saddle so that you can help your horse keep his balance. Try putting large tractor tires around the barrels or use cones so you hit your exact mark every time you go around the barrel. The Saddle Club puts on plenty of shows for you to work with your horse!

Barrel racing is a great sport for you and your horse to enjoy. Make sure you do other things with your horse like trail riding or even other events to keep your horse happy with what they're doing. Most importantly, enjoy spending time with your horse and never give up!



Olympics

D.J. Throckmorton

The Mid-Winter Special Olympics were held on Saturday, March 10th, in Iowa City. Algona High School competed in basketball skills and unified cheerleading. All AHS students who participated were medal winners.

Cheerleaders Macie Foster, Anna Hollinger,

Madi Jennings, and Josie McMahon, placed third.

Amy Kaiser placed third in basketball skills and Jacob Hutchison brought home a gold medal in basketball skills. "It was great and I met a lot of new friends there," says Jacob Hutchison.

Rising star

Zach McKenna

Jeremy Lin is a rising star in the NBA. He is a player who is at the top of his game and in high school, he didn't have one scholarship going into college.

Jeremy Lin plays for New York right now, which he played a huge part with a 7 game win streak.

He first played with the Golden State Warriors but was sent down to a minor team where he played because he was not good enough for the NBA yet. That is where the New York Knicks picked him up. He attended Harvard school where his basketball fame

wasn't getting him anywhere.

In the last 10 games, Jeremy Lin is averaging 15.4 points and 7.4 assist. He is helping the Knicks with a record of 21-24. Right now Jeremy Lin is one of the biggest threats stepping out on the court on a daily basis.

Jeremy Lin is important to the NBA right now because he himself could beat any team and now they are looking at a run to the finals later this year. "Jeremy Lin is a great point guard and I want to be just like him," says Dylan Cink.

NCAA March Madness 2012

Dylan Cink

This year's NCAA men's basketball championships are underway. As expected, there have already been many upsets, which include Norfolk State over Missouri, Lehigh over Duke, and many others. Sam Curtis said, "This is madness!"

Both the rounds of 64 and the rounds of 32 have been played, and it is now time for the sweet 16. The top seeded teams that have made it this far include Michigan State, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Syracuse. The lowest seeded team that has made it this far is Ohio, who is a 13 seed. Another "Cinderella hopeful" includes N.C. State, who is an 11 seed.

The sweet 16 is as follows:

March 22

Michigan State v.s. Louisville (West)

Marquette v.s. Florida (West)

Syracuse v.s. Wisconsin (East)

Cincinnati v.s. Ohio State (East)

March 23

Kentucky v.s. Indiana (South)

Baylor v.s. Xavier (South)

North Carolina v.s. Ohio (Midwest)

N.C. State v.s. Kansas (Midwest)

Golf season is here!

Megan Crosser

It's that time of the year, golf season has started again. Dawn Bjuström, head girls' coach, said, "We are excited about the year!"

The girls' team has a total of 21 girls with 4 returning letter-winners: Catherine Edgerton, Meredith Politte, Emily Prilipp, and Heather Ziesman.

Their practice began on Monday, March 12th, after school. Their home course is at River Road Golf Course, where they will be hosting their first meet of the year on Tuesday, April 10th.

The boys started their practice on Monday, March 19th. Mr. Ford is expecting to have 44 players with 5 returning letter-winners: Chris Grether, Gavin

Meyer, Samuel Lipps, Jonathan Wichtendahl, and Jacob Foust. Their home course is at the Algona Country Club and their first meet is also on Tuesday, April 10th in Estherville.

Wish the boys and girls' golf teams good luck on their season!

ISU track

Brandee Hockett

The track girls went to the Iowa State Girls' High School Classic that took place at Iowa State University. The meet took place on the 13th of March. The girls took two suburbans down.

In the 60 Meter Dash, Sonny Curtis got 128th place followed by Reba Zeller getting 133rd and then by Tiffany Long in 136th place out of 190 contestants. In the 1500 Meter Run, Tangy Wiseman places 22nd out of 98 girls. For the 3000 Meter Run, Carissa Pityer got 50th followed by Anna Zeller getting 60th out of 86 girls. In the 60 Meter Hurdles, Brandee Hockett placed 35th followed by

Jacey Thompson getting 58th and Ali Grein close behind in 65th place out of 161 girls. In the 4 by 1, Algona team A took 43rd place followed by the Algona B team getting 64th place out of 97 teams. Competing in the 800 Sprint Medley, the Algona team took 55th place out of 74 teams competing for the event. Courtney Groen took 28th place in the high jump. Tawny Schultz took 38th in the girls' long jump, and Tiffany Long finished in 69th place. In the girls' shot put, Abby Smith took 15th place out of 83 girls.

School News

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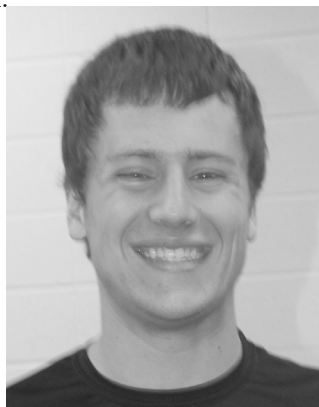
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Senior Spotlight

Sawyer Brandt

Sam Curtis is a very active senior at Algona High. Sam has two sisters and a brother, all younger than he is. He has a mother named Sara and father named Scott. Both of his parents are very active in the community. A fun fact about Sam's family is that all of their initials are "SC."

Sam is in three sports at AHS: football, basketball, and track. His favorite high school subject is Journalism II.



Career tours

Sam Curtis

The annual sophomore career tours were held last Friday, March 15th. These tours give the sophomores an excellent opportunity to explore many businesses around the area, hoping that they find something they think they could do for a living. The sophomore class signed up for the tours in homeroom last week and were able to mark their top two choices out of the nine Algona businesses.

The students left for their one hour business tours at 12:50 on Friday. The businesses that they could have chosen from were KOFAB,

After high school he plans on attending the University of Iowa. He plans on majoring in physical therapy.

Sam works at the Algona area Fridley Theaters where he gets people popcorn, starts movies, and gives people tickets.

Sam will be going on a family vacation where they will take a cruise. This is coming up and everyone should wish him safe travels!



Kemna's, Pharmacists Mutual, Pioneer, Kuehl and Payer, Snap On, Good Samaritan Society, Aluma, and Exceptional Opportunities. These businesses were chosen for Algona High School by the Kossuth County Economic Development Corporation, or the KCED. They chose these businesses because it gives a good variety of the different businesses that the area has to offer.

When asked about the tours, sophomore Weston Shaw said, "I had fun and it was very helpful."

On to All-State!

Taylor Setzer

The AHS speech team had a very successful day the the State individual contest on Saturday, March 10th. The contest took place at Sibley Ocheyedan High School. Thirty speakers performed at the contest with the team finishing the day with sixteen overall I's and fourteen overall II's.

Scott Haas received performing All-State nominations in both of his categories. Scott performed the categories of radio news and public address. Scott will perform with 464 of the best speech individual contestants in the state at the Individual All State Speech Festival held on the UNI

campus. Scott will perform in front of a guest judge and receive written and verbal comments regarding his performance. He will also be part of the morning ceremonies, walking in the dual nomination parade. When asked about his accomplishment, Scott said, "I am really excited and can't wait to see how I do!"

All-State will take place on Monday, March 26th, at UNI. Good luck to Scott in his performances, and congratulations to all other performers!

Teacher Spotlight

Jackie Brunow

This week's teacher highlight is Dawn Bjuström. Dawn was born and grew up here in Algona. Dawn has been coaching golf since 1984 and full-time teaching since 1990.

Dawn has four brothers named Dana, Dale, Dean, and Darin. Dawn married Randy Bjuström in 1983 and has three boys: Jay, Tyler, and Corey. Dawn doesn't have any pets, but her son has a Boxer and he loves her!

Dawn went to college at Iowa State University. If Dawn wasn't a teacher, she would have liked to be a landscape architect. Dawn said she wanted to be a teacher because she wanted to help others learn about healthy lifetime habits and

be a mentor and a friend.

Some of her hobbies are golfing, jogging, yard work, cooking, and cleaning. Dawn say, "Yes, I like to clean!" In the summer Dawn likes to bike at surrounding communities on their bike paths. In Dawn's free time she likes to hang out with her husband.

Something we don't know about Dawn is that she's played basketball with the Vikings players, ate supper with The Beach Boys, and has eaten grapes off the vines while swimming in the Mediterranean Sea. She also wanted to be an astronaut or a nun in 5th grade.

If you see Dawn in the halls, don't be afraid to say hi!

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American Idol

Rachel Feuring

This year's *American Idol* contest is heating up as the finalist are announced. The top ten of *American Idol* include Colton Dixon, Deandre Brackensick, Elise Testone, Erika Van Pelt, Heejun Han, Hollie Cavanagh, Jessica Sanchez, Joshua Ledet, Phillip Phillips, and Skylar Laine. This week had a double elimination with Shannon Magrane leaving and Jermaine Jones being asked to leave the show due to his outstanding criminal records and warrants.

Last week on *American Idol*, the contestants sang songs from their birth year. Their ages ranged from 28 years old to 16 years old. Stealing the show was Joshua Ledet singing, "When a Man Loves a Woman." The judges said it was the "best

performance in *American Idol* history." Judges Steven Tyler, Jennifer Lopez, and Randy Jackson also loved Hollie Cavanagh that night. But the elimination was intense, sending Shannon Magrane back home to Tampa.

This year's top ten will be touring on the *American Idol* 2012 Tour this summer. If you need to be caught up on this season's *Idol* contestants, visit americanidol.com and watch next week as the finalists meet the Tommy Hilfiger. Every Wednesday and Thursday nights at 7 p.m. on FOX.

Project X

Micah Lavrenz

This rated R movie, *Project X*, follows three high school losers planing to throw the most epic party ever. Thomas, Costa, and JB, the three main characters, are throwing a party at Thomas' house for his birthday while his parents are out of town. As the word spreads, the party gets bigger and bigger. The party consists of around 1,500 - 2,000 people.

The three high school students end up being the most popular kids at school because of the party. There is a lot of different activities that happen at this party. It is the party that almost anybody would want to attend. "It was a very interesting movie," said Sam

Curtis, a *Project X* watcher.

Project X runs 88 minutes long and is currently in Cinema West Theater in Mason City. The movie is a very interesting movie to watch. If you want to know what everyone is talking about, attend it!

NFL Madness

Vandy

Well, it may be a new day, but the NFL is still as buzzing as it has been since the Super Bowl ended. Peyton Manning becomes a free agent, generating offers from many teams, but now has narrowed his choices to four. The Titans look stronger than most teams, the Broncos give confidence, the Cardinals give a passing threat, and the Dolphins give a young desire for winning. Manning was expected to make his choice this week and did, choosing the Denver Broncos. He joins a team ready to win and John Elway could not be any happier, seeing how he owns the

team.

Next is the beginning of free-agency beyond Manning. Top players in free agency include: Matt Flynn, quarterback; Mario Williams, defensive end; Mario Manningham, wide receiver; Vincent Jackson, wide receiver; Peyton Hillis, running back; Randy Moss, wide receiver; and Steve Hutchinson, offensive guard, among others. Some names listed have been signed, such as Randy Moss to the 49ers, Vincent Jackson to the Bucs, and Manningham to the 49ers. Much to the chagrin of Titan nation, Hutchinson was looked to

be courted by the team so they could get Peyton Manning.

A shocking report is the sad decline of faith in the Saints. A recent report came out stating that the team ran a bounty program while a former defensive coordinator was with the organization. The program included bonuses for late hits, injuries, and sacks, among others. The Saints have admitted this to be true and the NFL plans to punish the team harshly. The expected repercussions could include termination, fines, and even bans.

As of now the talk

of the NFL looms over Manning, the Broncos, the Dolphins' free agency failure, and now revolves over an impending trade for Tim Tebow. Free agency can be said in one word as McCain Jennings says, "Madness."